

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

My son is a soldier who has served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I was appalled when Sinclair refused to honor his fellow soldiers who died in battle recently when Nightline aired the names of these heroic men and women. Sinclair misuses their broadcasting privilege by trying to make their stations conform to their political views. If a news program featuring soldiers who died in battle is not news, then neither is a documentary designed to discredit a political candidate.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Don't all Americans, regardless of political party, afford them this privilege? Didn't those valiant men and women of the military die so we all can have a free voice, and the ability to rely on our media to give us fair and balanced reporting?

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.